

FISCAL NOTE

HB 2961 - SB 3387

February 4, 2008

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires the parents in a termination of parental rights case receive notice of what constitutes “abandonment” prior to the filing of the termination petition. Deletes requirement that support of the child, in termination of parental rights cases, be based on the child support guidelines pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 36-5-101.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures - \$67,800

Other Fiscal Impact – Increase Federal Expenditures - \$42,300

Assumptions:

- Annually, there are 684 Termination of Parental Rights cases with the goal of adoption through the Department of Children’s Services. It is estimated that 5%, or 34, of these cases will be impacted by the provisions of the bill.
- On average, the delay in the termination of parental rights will require an additional 30 days of state custody. For each additional day there will be an approximate increase of \$108 in expenditures per child. Such will increase expenditures by \$110,160 (34 cases X 30 days X \$108 per day).
- Of the \$110,160, seven percent (\$7,711) will be Title IV-E Federal funds; 49% (\$53,978) will be through TennCare; and \$48,471 in state funds.
- Of the TennCare funds, \$19,358 is state funds at a 35.862% match rate and \$34,620 is federal funds at a 64.138% match rate.
- The total increase in expenditures for additional days of children in custody is estimated at \$67,829 in state funds and \$42,331 in federal funds.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James W. White". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a distinct "W".

James W. White, Executive Director

/kml